

September 5, 1955

Dr. Roger S. Mitchell
Webb Building
Colorado Medical Center
Denver 20, Colorado

Dear Roger:

Thank you for your kind letter of the 1st, which doubtless crossed my last. As I promised, I have been taking some time to summarize what mole Genetics might play in the medical school. As you will see, the attached account was written first without special reference to Colorado, but I have added some remarks of local application too.

I was particularly pleased at Dr. Meiklejohn's favorable reaction to the idea. As I have tried to emphasize, Medical Genetics ought to be able to stand on its own merits whether or not I go along with it to help or hinder. Indeed, as the analysis indicates, one might question whether I would represent the logical next appointment, though this may depend on who else would be available. I also send a suggestion for a course. This was designed for consideration at Wisconsin as much as at Colorado, and should not be considered as a definite proposal, especially in view of Ted Puck's established work in this direction. However, I would be very much interested to learn how much of this material is already represented in Ted's course, and what the experience has been that might be helpful to the medical curriculum committee here.

If I may comment on your memorandum, I would say it lays much too much emphasis on my availability and too little on the theme of medical genetics. Actually, this would not be such a remarkable innovation; at least half a dozen, or a dozen schools, already do quite a bit along this line. What would be fairly unique would be an integrated department (comparable to the one here in the College of Agriculture) that encompassed not only human but microbial and other experimental lines of genetic work. Perhaps the enclosures would help you to put that theme into balance. It then becomes a question whether a formal presentation of a concrete proposal might not be premature at this time. If you have Meiklejohn's and (I presume, I hope correctly) Ted's support for this theme, you perhaps should discuss the matter more informally with "key people" from the other departments. It seems to me that a formal proposal for action by the Faculty would have to wait until the choice of staff was more firmly settled. I can assure you, I am devoting a lot of time thinking about my own possible role at Colorado, or alternatively, who else would do at least as good, or better, job of it should you be still interested in following up this idea if I withdraw myself.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg